

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

For Release Wednesday, May 6, 1970

Carroll 343-5634

## SURVEY OF WATERFOWL NESTING GROUNDS SCHEDULED IN MAY

An extensive air and ground survey of waterfowl nesting areas in the United States and Canada is scheduled by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in May amid reports of good conditions on northern prairie regions, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The survey will be conducted by the Interior Department's agency and the Canadian Wildlife Service. State and Provincial agencies and Ducks Unlimited, Canada, also cooperate in the surveys.

The "prairie pothole" country, which includes the Dakotas, western Minnesota, eastern Montana, and large parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, is often called North America's "duck factory." The pot-holes are glacier-formed ponds and lakes which, with the right combination of snow and rainfall, are ideal duck nesting sites.

This was the region reported "good" in preliminary reports reaching the Bureau. Late heavy snow in the Dakotas and parts of southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba is the reason for optimism.

Two surveys are made annually. The May observations are of water levels and other conditions that affect nesting success, and of the number of nesting birds.

The second survey, in July, reveals summer water conditions and the success of the hatch. The surveys provide the basis for fall waterfowl hunting regulations.

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